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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/815,149	03/30/2004	Frans Vandenbroek	A-2810-AL	8211
21378	7590	06/12/2008	EXAMINER	
APPLIED MEDICAL RESOURCES CORPORATION			MCEVOY, THOMAS M	
22872 Avenida Empresa			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688			3731	
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
06/12/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/815,149	VANDENBROEK ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	THOMAS MCEVOY	3731	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 March 2008.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-9 and 19-23 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 10-18 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 30 March 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/30/2004, 7/28/2004, 9/20/2005, 3/18/2008.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Invention II, claims 10-18 in the reply filed on March 18th 2008 is acknowledged. Claims 1-9 and 19-23 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "61" has been used to designate both the "jaw" and the "bridge" in Figure 6. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claimed phrase "wherein the housing is molded over the bridge" is not grammatically correct and cannot be unambiguously interpreted. Examiner has interpreted the phrase as "wherein the housing is molded over the bridge" for the purpose of this examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

- (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.
- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 10-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Yawata et al. (WO 2004/008944 A2).

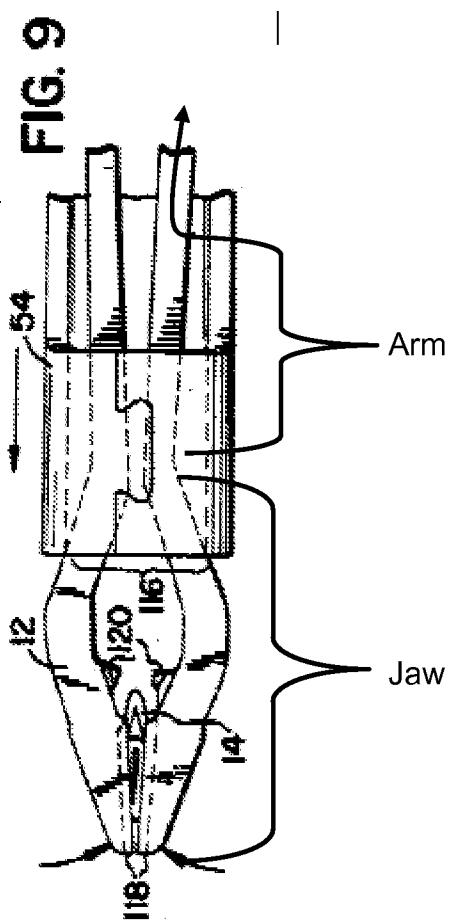
Regarding claim 10, Yawata et al. disclose a jaw assembly adapted for use with a handle assembly in a surgical clip applier, comprising: a pair of jaws, 134a and 134b, adapted to receive a surgical clip, the jaws are movable between an open state and a closed state (p. 11, lines 5-6); a pair of elongate support arms, 132a and 132b, each adapted to support an associated one of the jaws between the open state of the jaws and the closed state of the jaws; a bridge 130 (Figure 10) disposed between the support arms to hold the jaws in an aligned relationship between the open state and the closed state; a housing, 101 and 102, disposed over at least the bridge, the housing having a

generally fixed relationship with the bridge while permitting movement of the jaws between the open state and the closed state; and a coupling (bottom surface of 101 which contacts scissors) included in the housing, the coupling being adapted for attaching the housing to the handle assembly. Regarding claim 11, the jaw, support arms and bridge contact each other and are integral. Regarding claim 12, the claimed phrase "wherein the housing is molded over the bridge" is being treated as a product by process limitation; that is, as set forth in MPEP 2113, product by process claims are not limited to the manipulation of the recited steps, only the structure implied by the steps. Once a product appearing to be substantially the same or similar is found, a 35 USC 102/103 rejection may be made and the burden is shifted to applicant to show an unobvious difference. MPEP 2113. The housing, 101 and 102, is found to be substantially the same or similar to the claimed housing. Regarding claims 13 and 14, the jaws are resilient and biased in the open position (p. 11, lines 5-6). Regarding claims 15-18, the jaws open and close in a plane separating the top and bottom surfaces of the arms. In a closed state, only the top and bottom surfaces of the arms can be in contact with the top and bottom sides of the housing (first and second portions) and the side surfaces can be squeezed out of contact with the side surfaces of the housing.

7. Claims 10-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Burbank et al. (US 5,431,668).

Regarding claim 10, Burbank et al. disclose a jaw assembly adapted for use with a handle assembly in a surgical clip applier, comprising: a pair of jaws 12 adapted to

receive a surgical clip and movable between an open state and a closed state (Figure 8 vs. Figure 9); a pair of elongate support arms each adapted to support an associated one of the jaws between the open state of the jaws and the closed state of the jaws (Figure 9), see below:



The jaw assembly further comprises: a bridge (top of Figure 8 or 10) disposed between the support arms to hold the jaws in an aligned relationship between the open state and the closed state; a housing 54 disposed over at least the bridge, the housing having a generally fixed relationship with the bridge while permitting movement of the jaws

between the open state and the closed state; and a coupling (proximal end 52 of 54; Figure 5) included in the housing, the coupling being adapted for attaching the housing to the handle assembly. Regarding claim 11, the jaw, support arms and bridge contact each other and are therefore integral. Regarding claim 12, the claimed phrase "wherein the housing the molded over the bridge" is being treated as a product by process limitation; that is, as set forth in MPEP 2113, product by process claims are not limited to the manipulation of the recited steps, only the structure implied by the steps. Once a product appearing to be substantially the same or similar is found, a 35 USC 102/103 rejection may be made and the burden is shifted to applicant to show an unobvious difference. MPEP 2113. The housing 54 is found to be substantially the same or similar to the claimed housing. Regarding claims 13 and 14, the jaws are resilient and biased in the open position when not pushed together by 54 (Figure 8 vs. Figure 9). Regarding claims 15-18, the jaws open and close in a plane separating the top and bottom surfaces of the arms. In a closed state, only the top and bottom surfaces of the arms can be in contact with the top and bottom sides (first and second portions) of the housing 54 and the side surfaces can be squeezed out of contact with the side surfaces of the housing as shown in Figure 9.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas Mcevoy whose telephone number is (571) 270-5034. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9:00-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Todd Manahan can be reached on 571-272-4713. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TM

/Todd E Manahan/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3731